



11-1942

November 1942

William Preston Davies

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.und.edu/davies-columns>

Recommended Citation

Davies, William Preston, "November 1942" (1942). *W. P. Davies' Newspaper Column ('That Reminds Me')*. 144.
<https://commons.und.edu/davies-columns/144>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections at UND Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in W. P. Davies' Newspaper Column ('That Reminds Me') by an authorized administrator of UND Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact zeinebyousif@library.und.edu.

TO THE AVERAGE VOTER THE general election ballot is a thing of confusion. It contains an appalling number of names, and many of those names are of persons of whom the voter never heard of before. As to the personal character of those candidates and their fitness for any public position, the voter must rely on statements made by others and the statements which he hears are so conflicting that he is necessarily left in doubt.



Davies.

Many of the positions to be filled by election involve the performance of duties with which the voter is unfamiliar. A quarter of a century ago Woodrow Wilson, then president of the United States, returning to New Jersey to vote, confessed that he found himself unable to cast his vote intelligently, and Woodrow Wilson is generally conceded to have been a fairly intelligent man.

* * *

THE BALLOT WHICH WILL BE BEFORE the North Dakota voter on Tuesday is somewhat less bulky than some of its predecessors have been. Nevertheless, to most voters it will be found complicated and confusing. It is fairly representative of ballots in general. Some of the appeals for votes which have been made during the campaign have tended to increase rather than lessen the confusion. But it seems to me that if the voter will concentrate on what appear to be the essentials of the situation in so far as it relates to the election of state officials, he should have little difficulty in reaching a decision.

* * *

GOVERNOR MOSES, WHO IS A CANDIDATE for re-election, is one of the best-known men in North Dakota. The performance of his duties has taken him to every part of the state and in his conferences with boards and commissions of which he is a member and in the inspection of work for which he is responsible has met merchants, farmers, lawyers, physicians, educators, men and women of every occupation and with them he has discussed all the varied phases of the state's public affairs. Those citizens have had ample opportunity to learn what manner of man he is.

* * *

WHEN ALL THE FROTH THAT rises to the surface in a political campaign is blown away and we get down to what really matters, there will be found remaining, I think, a basis of truth concerning which there can be little real difference of opinion. It will be found that John Moses is an honest man and a capable public servant; that he has administered the affairs of his office in the interest of the people of the state and not in the interest of any political party or faction; that in a period of extraordinary difficulty he has been diligent and ener-

getic in devising ways in which the energies of the people of his state may most effectively contribute to the strengthening the hands of the federal government in the nation's supreme war effort; and that he has made earnest and successful effort to minimize waste in the expenditure of the taxpayer's money. With those facts so clearly established the voter should have no difficulty in determining that the re-election of Governor Moses will be decidedly to his advantage.

* * *

WHILE THE DUTIES OF MOST OF the state's elective officials are largely administrative, there are two, in addition to the governor, who are charged with the shaping of important governmental policies. These are the attorney general and the secretary of agriculture and labor. With the governor these two constitute the industrial commission, which directs the operation of the state bank, the state mill and other state enterprises. It is important that those men, like the governor, shall be committed to a policy of management of the state's affairs in the interest of the state, free from party or factional domination. The candidates for these positions who are associated with the governor in this campaign are John Omland for attorney general and John N. Hagen for commissioner of agriculture and labor. The election of those men will place vital state interests in the hands of a commission committed to a policy of sound, progressive and economical administration.

* * *

EXCEPT IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES the duties of the lieutenant governor are confined chiefly to the legislative session. The lieutenant governor presides over the deliberations of the senate and exercises an important influence in shaping the work of that body. Usually well fitted for that position is Henry Holt of Grand Forks, who appears on the same ticket with the governor. In his work for water conservation, for development of the state's natural resources, and in many other ways Mr. Holt has been active in the performance of useful work for many years. He has a sound grasp of public affairs, is an excellent presiding officer and his public work has brought him into close contact with the public men of adjoining states and with heads of departments in Washington. A vote for Henry Holt will be a vote for a capable business man and an efficient public servant.

* * *

THE EMPHASIS PLACED ON THE candidacies of the men above mentioned is intended in no sense to minimize the desirability of electing the other candidates on the coalition ticket. But the candidates who have been thus briefly discussed seem to be in a special class as being related to the shaping of the state's larger policies. It is no military secret that I intend to vote for the entire coalition state ticket.

A LETTER RECENTLY RECEIVED by a Grand Forks family from a relative in Hawaii contains interesting comment on the attitude of many of the people of the islands as nearly a year has elapsed since the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Notwithstanding the suddenness of that attack, its treacherous nature and its devastating influence on the power of the United States in the Pacific, it is the writer's observation that there are many Hawaiian residents who do not even yet feel that they are at war and that political and departmental controversies still occupy a great share of their attention. Paragraphs from the letter read as follows:



Davies.

* * *

"RIGHT NOW THE ELECTIONS ARE keeping things interesting for a few of us. There is practically no interest shown by the people generally in the election, parties or candidates. Usually campaigning is done here by means of attendance at numerous rallies out of doors in areas all over the islands. Entertainers are interspersed with candidates and speakers for candidates. The shows put on are most excellent—and interesting as the dickens because of the candidates themselves. This year, however, they are all restricted in the use of their cars by gasoline rationing and tire shortage, so there have been few rallies. Each candidate got 20 extra gallons of gas from our rationing office to campaign with, so there have been a few rallies. But either the people aren't interested at all or they just figure that they shouldn't spend their own gasoline or that because of the shortage there wouldn't be rallies, because they have had as low as three and not over 15 adults at a rally. This has resulted in the newspaper publication of large sections of biographical data in a truly non-partisan spirit, and it forces them all on the radio. As to the candidates—what a motley lot!—some excellent, some just plain ordinary, and some under all classifications of ability.

* * *

"ANOTHER REASON WHY INTEREST in this election is high in military

circles is that when the legislature meets it will be told politely what the military wants and what it doesn't want—and oh, boy, it's going to be fun. The people of the ruling classes out here have been ruling so long that the idea of military control isn't acceptable, even considering that we are at war. In other

words, we (meaning the people) aren't at war yet, even in Hawaii—war is something we are in, something we are not willing to think of in all-out terms, something that encroaches on our usual and normal business and personal life for an unknown reason, and therefore effort must be made to reduce that encroachment to a minimum. War is a fact, we direct our lives to the end of war and accept it as a temporary situation—it is not nice to dwell on it, so we don't.

* * *

"SO IT IS NOT HARD TO SEE WHY there are somewhat powerful groups willing to take a snip at military control, get rid of a part of it if you can. The heart of the problem then is the difference of approach to essential ways of thinking. The militarist sees Hawaii as a fort far out in front of the rear lines, all by itself and dependent on itself for military and other survival. The civilian I am speaking of sees Hawaii unchanged from its position before the war except in certain external ways. To the military situation it is necessary that every effort be made and controlled by every individual in the fort. The civilian does not see that necessity. Which makes it interesting when interposed into the problem is the normal interdepartment jealousy between the interior and war departments as to who is going to run the fort. And the more interesting will be the sniping activity involving the coming legislature and its acts.

* * *

"WE HAD ANOTHER INTERESTING event yesterday. Garner Anthony took office as the new attorney general of the territory. Stainback got his appointment from Ickes on some kind of a deal whereby Stainback as the new governor was to wrest the territory away from the military and get it back for the department of the interior. The papers played up the fact that the new governor was fearless in his way and would provide a "strong" civil government to which the military could turn over some of the civil rights and functions it had taken. Of course Stainback was in a spot. Having been the legal adviser to the military governor he knew the situation from the military point of view (which helped him as an Ickes man, too) and he knew there wasn't much he could do. The appointment of Garner Anthony was a brilliant political move for Stainback, our "little Ickes," but I can't see that it was so hot for Anthony."

Anthony is described as one of the ablest lawyers in the territory, the most active member of the firm which has looked after much of the legal business of the five companies which control practically all the great business enterprises of the islands. It is said that he was one of the first to strike at the martial law set up.

AT THE UNIVERSITY THE OTHER day President West reminded faculty members and students that only a few weeks of this semester remain and urged all concerned to plan their work so that these few weeks may be devoted to work of the most constructive and productive character. Within a few hours he learned that he was being quoted as saying that there would be no further University work after the first of the year. To suggestions that vigorous effort be made to counteract this rumor he replied that it wasn't worth while, and that if faculty and students were to spend their time running around contradicting unfounded rumors they would have no time for either teaching or study.



Davies.

* * *

WHAT ABOUT THE HELP Problem in Grand Forks? Here are a few illustrations which may serve as examples:

For the first time since President West took charge of the University notices are being displayed on the campus something to this effect: "Wanted, student help in the restaurant." Former students who attended the institution many years ago say that this is the first time within their knowledge when there was not a waiting list of applicants for restaurant jobs.

The manager of a down-town business house answered a telephone call. A voice said: "Will you please send us information on how much business your house did with Blank & Co. since the first of the year? I'm a new girl in the office of Blank & Co., and I need this information. The manager replied, "I'm sorry, but we have three new girls here, and they don't know, either."

A girl clerk in a local office complained: "It's getting so I can't stand it much longer. I turn on the light in the office and the manager comes along and turns it off. Every time I turn it on he turns it off. One of these days I'll just walk out on him." How long have you been there?" she was asked. "Three weeks!"

* * *

A FEW WEEKS AGO WALKER Whiteside died after a long and successful career on the stage. He had appeared in Grand Forks many times, for the first few years in Shakespearean and romantic plays. Later he developed a preference for plays representing oriental life, some of which were remarkable for their gorgeously colorful stage settings. Stanley Cadwell, who served on the stage in the early days of the old Met, has preserved many of the old programs, one of which is of the play "The Typhoon," given by Whiteside on November 10, 1913. The principal character in that play was Tok-eramo, a Japanese residing in Berlin. The combination is rather interesting in view of the relations now existing between Japan and Germany. More than a dozen characters are listed on the program, but there are no names there that I recognize.

HALLOWEEN HAS BEEN OBSERVED in many ways for many years. Legend has it that on that night mischievous spirits were permitted liberty to play tricks of many kinds until the stroke of midnight, when their liberty ceased for another year. Apparently associated in some mysterious way with this belief was the belief that if certain forms were observed on that evening the future could be accurately forecast. Usually the fortune-telling related to the romantic affairs of youths and maidens. This, if a girl burned a candle in front of a mirror just at midnight she would be able to see in the glass the image of the young man whom she was to marry. There were innumerable ceremonies which, if properly performed, would enable believing inquirers to learn about their future marital status.

* * *

MRS. ANNIE HESKETH JOINED IN the conversation about Halloween on Saturday night at the home of her son, John Hesketh on Walnut street. Now, at the age of 84, she recalls the manner in which Halloween was observed in the English neighborhood from which she came to this continent 73 years ago. Among other things it was the practice for all the male servants and retainers of a family to gather outside the family home and sing a greeting. Not only has Mrs. Hesketh retained the words of that greeting through all these years, but she is able to sing them according to the old tune. The words which she recalls are as follows:

* * *

(ALL SOULS DAY) HALLOWE'EN.

Ye gentlemen of England, we'd have you to draw near

And mark these lines which we have pened and quickly you shall hear,

Sweet melody of music sang on this evening clear and we'll come no more a Souling

Until this time next year.

God bless the master of this house
The mistress also and all the little children which round their table go

God bless your men and maidens, your cattle and your store and all that dwell within this house we wish you 10 times more.

Step down into your cellar and see what you can find

And if your barrels be not empty, we hope you will prove kind.

We hope you will prove kind with your money and strong beer

And we'll come no more a souling until this time next year.

Cheers and dancing.

* * *

WHEN THE SONG WAS FINISHED it was in order for the master of the house to bring up from his cellar beer with which he treated the company, often adding a small gift of money. The serenaders would then go on to the next mansion to be received in like manner. By the time the rounds were completed those who had partaken liberally of the beer were apt to be well saturated.

CHINA WAS A BELLIGERENT IN the former World War, as she is today, but with an important difference. Then her neighbor, Japan, was fighting on the same side with her and the conditions surrounding the war were such that China stood in no danger of invasion. Before the beginning of this war she had been treacherously attacked by Japan, for two years her territory had been ravaged by the invader and her people were in dire need of many of the common necessities of life. But in the earlier war her resources had been heavily taxed and many of the ordinary commodities were difficult to obtain.



Davies.

* * *

D. C. MACDONALD OF THIS CITY recently discovered in a collection of old papers a letter written in 1916 by a member of his family who was then doing business in China. Writing from the city of Canton this correspondent made some interesting observations relative to the use of wheat flour in China and to the difficulties encountered in finding a market there for hard wheat such as is grown in North Dakota. His letter reads in part as follows:

* * *

"SINCE MY ARRIVAL HERE IN THE orient I have had more or less of an opportunity to see the uses of flour made by the Chinese. During my stay in Canton I have visited several bake shops and tea houses and have seen their great variety of little cakes, cookies, biscuits, etc., and I have been thinking a great deal about hard wheat flour. I am very curious about the possibilities of certain grades of flour that are adapted to certain uses. I am a believer in and booster for hard wheats, and the longer a community uses that flour the more discriminating it becomes in making a choice.

* * *

"AS YOU KNOW, FLOUR AT FIRST was a curiosity; then it became a luxury, and it is now fast becoming a real necessity among the Chinese on down to the lower classes. Of course, at present war prices flour is a luxury everywhere in China. At the present time the big sale of flour to the orient is of cheap soft wheat flour, 'straight export' and soft wheat 'cut off'. Very little hard wheat has as yet come from America, although we are beginning to ship some to Manila and the volume is constantly increasing. When the Australian embargo against the exportation of flour is lifted (Australia was also at war) our strong flour will have a good foothold in the Philippines.

A SMALL QUANTITY OF POORLY milled Manchurian wheat flour from Shanghai mills is being exported to Hong Kong in violation of treaty rights. One man in Shanghai has the special permit. We have protested to Washington, with the usual poor success. We have now secured written statements from the American consul general in Canton and the commissioner of maritime customs in Canton that it is a violation and we will proceed to take the matter up with the American minister at Peking on our return to Hong Kong.

* * *

"AT THE PRESENT TIME THE Chinese boycott is very severe on Japanese goods. This will work to our benefit in the south in this way: Japanese mills have never been serious competition, but with the closing up of the Black sea Russian and Siberian wheat was blocked and some Siberian wheat was sold at a cheap price to Japanese mills and they are selling it at cheap prices in Java and the Straits Settlement. This unforeseen source of wheat supply for Japan is a new factor to be considered, but the effect will be nil and they will lose as a result of the boycott.

* * *

CHINA READS INTO THE TREATY that wheat and flour are not to be exported to foreign countries, therefore her prices are regulated by purely local conditions. Hence Shanghai millers pay whatever they wish. Under normal conditions they supply the wants of north China. We are only able to sell the high grades in north China, unload the other grades elsewhere."

* * *

THE LETTER CLOSES WITH A REQUEST for information on the comparative prices of wheat in North Dakota and in Manitoba, as the opinion is expressed that Canada will soon be exporting her high grade hard wheat to the orient.

MINNEAPOLIS PEOPLE ARE COMPLAINING of a scarcity of fireplace wood. Anticipating the rationing of fuel oil those who have oil-burning furnaces have been planning to make greater use than usual of their fireplaces—if they have fireplaces. The fireplace is not an economical heating device, as so much of the heat generated goes up the chimney, but it does give out heat, and where one is used the furnace heat can be kept quite low and considerable oil is saved. Of course many of the recently built fireplaces are built with an air circulating chamber which really delivers heat. However, any well built fireplace helps to warm a room and many of them will be used this winter to supplement oil.



Davies.

* * *

MINNEAPOLIS REPORTS THAT IT is almost impossible to obtain hard wood there. Several causes contribute to the shortage. One is shortage of help in the timbered country from which the wood usually comes. As in other areas men have gone into the armed services and into the war industries until there are scarcely enough men left to do chores. Hence very little wood has been cut. With rubber already rationed and gasoline rationing just around the corner trucks are seldom available for hauling wood, and the railroads are loaded with other kinds of freight.

* * *

THESE CONDITIONS AFFECT Grand Forks as well as Minneapolis for it is from northern Minnesota that practically all our fuel wood comes. Several of the local dealers have told me that they find it next to impossible to get hard wood, and the supply of soft wood is by no means certain. Usually the bulk of the hard wood that comes to Grand Forks is oak, with birch next and a lesser proportion of maple. Occasionally in a load there will be a little ash, with occasional sticks of ironwood. The latter, when well seasoned, makes perfect fuel, provided it is not desired to split it. I have often wondered why ironwood grows spirally.

* * *

WHEN THAT SECTION OF OLD ONTARIO including Huron county and adjacent territory was first settled it was practically covered with great forests of hemlock and maple. The land had to be cleared in order that field crops could be grown, and much of the hard wood was logged up into great piles and burned. When the first railroads were built into the territory the locomotives burned wood and at every station enormous piles of cordwood filled the yards. The cordwood

was cut into 16-inch lengths by power saws which were taken from place with their crews of wood sawyers—usually negroes. I remember one gang of black boys that made the rounds of one branch and stopped at the tavern near the station. After a long day's work at the woodpiles, followed by an enormous supper, they would spend the entire evening in the tavern bar room singing and dancing to the accompaniment of bones, tambourine and banjo. They were a jolly lot.

* * *

IN ONE COUNTRY VILLAGE AWAY from any railroad there was a tavern with a fireplace in which 4-foot cordwood was burned. The inhabitants were all from Scotland, most of them from the Highlands, and on a winter night one would find a lot of them, villagers and farmers, seated in a semicircle before a blazing fire of maple cordwood, each with a glass of toddy in his hand. There was chat of the doings of the neighborhood. Tales from Old Scotland were told. Occasionally there would be a song, and some old codger might even demonstrate a few steps of the highland fling. I don't know how many times I have read "Tam O'Shanter," but I never read it without thinking of that village tavern and the jovial company that gathered there.

* * *

IN MY OWN PROPER PART OF THE country farther south the clearing of the land was further along in my time, but there was still plenty of wood. Our favorite wood was maple, and next came beech. The two were usually mixed, and because of the preference for maple contracts for wood usually specified "mixed beech and maple, and not less than half maple."

QUITE EARLY IN THE YEAR IT BECAME reasonably certain that some difficulty would be experienced in the United States in obtaining the usual supply of coffee. Plenty of coffee was produced, but all of it had to be imported, and importation was bound to be more or less difficult. Ocean freighters were subject to attack by enemy submarines, and even though this difficulty might be overcome ocean tonnage was required for transportation of war material.



Davies.

PRESENTLY WHAT WAS MORE than probable became certain and government agencies have announced that in the near future coffee is to be rationed. Since that time many housewives have been accumulating stocks of coffee in anticipation of rationing. Dealers generally have not co-operated willingly in this process of hoarding. Most of them have declined to sell more than small quantities to one person at a time, but the shopper has gone from store to store, buying a pound here and a pound there until several pounds have been collected. This cannot well be prevented by the dealer.

IT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN A BAD idea for the government in its entire rationing program to copy the British method of rationing clothing. The British rationing authorities, operating in strict secrecy, prepared a complete rationing plan for clothing. Final touches were given to that plan on a Saturday. On Sunday the British radio broadcast announcements of the plan, outlined its main features, and gave notice that the plan would be in full effect throughout the United Kingdom on Monday morning. Clothing rationing cards would be distributed as soon as possible, but meanwhile other rationing cards would be available for clothing. The rationing plan applied uniformly to rich and poor. Anyone who wished to use up his or her allowance for the year on expensive clothing was at liberty to do so, but if the card were used up now on silk dresses and fur coats there could be no purchases made of stockings and underwear next month. And the fact that the system went into effect instantly and without notice precluded a rush on the stores and the hoarding of clothing stocks.

I HAVE BEFORE ME A VOLUminous announcement of its service by a long-range weather forecasting concern whose name and address I shall not give. The forecasts, we are told, are issued for each day up to six months or more in advance. They describe the conditions for each day of the cool and warm and wet and dry areas and the areas that will receive light, medium and heavy moisture, the humid areas, the frost danger areas, the fig areas, etc. They tell the length and kind of growing seasons for next year, the time of the last cold

spell and frost in the spring and the time of the first frost in the fall for all areas. Those statements are quoted verbatim from the announcement. There are mimeographed pages, all to the same effect.

PRESUMABLY THIS OUTFIT IS ACTUALLY doing business. It has a centrally located office in a large city and it uses fairly expensive stationery. All those things cost money, and we may be quite certain that the company is not in business for its health. It must have a fairly large list of customers who pay cash for its forecasts. The amazing thing is that people, otherwise intelligent, will place credence in such forecasts when the best scientific knowledge of the age, with the prestige of great governments behind it, and, in time of peace, in contact by wireless with every quarter of the globe, is unable to predict weather changes for any given area with any degree of accuracy for more than a few days in advance.

INNUMERABLE WEATHER FAKERS have made fortunes by playing on human credulity in the matter of weather forecasts. Inasmuch as weather is exceedingly flexible, with changes of some sort occurring every few days, any reasonably intelligent person can make a set of weather predictions in general terms as accurate as those of the most skillful of the weather fakers. If the predictions are not too specific they will usually be fairly accurate within a few days, and occasionally will by a lucky guess the prophet will hit the nail right on the head.

ONE OF THE RESULTS OF THE RE-cent election which will be almost universally regretted is the defeat of Senator George Norris of Nebraska after forty years of service in congress. And the saddest part of it, not the defeat of Senator Norris itself, but the bitter disappointment which it brought to him. Seldom has such a pathetic utterance been made by a public man than that of Mr. Norris when he learned the result of the election in his state.



Davies.

"Personally," he said, "I find it is a repudiation of 40 years of service. God knows I have tried to do the job. I know I have been honest. I have done my best to repudiate wrong and evil in government. But I have to admit I have utterly failed."

* * *

SUCH A STATEMENT, MADE AS the door is about to close on a period of public service which has occupied half of a long lifetime, could come only from a heart wrung with sorrow and disappointment, and there are innumerable Americans who will be saddened by the knowledge that the close of such a career should be clouded by a sense of frustration and futility.

* * *

IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT SENA-tor Norris will feel differently when he has had time to recover from the shock of an unexpected reverse and view his own life in its true proportions. Through a combination of circumstances such as may arise in any political campaign he has been defeated at the polls, but he has not been repudiated, nor has the work failed to which he has devoted the greater part of a lifetime. He had made for himself a place of honor in the public life of his nation and he had made contributions to it which no election can sweep away.

* * *

THERE MAY BE SEVERAL MILLION Americans who at times have found themselves violently opposed to opinions

expressed by Senator Norris and to policies which he supported, but among those millions there will be found few who have not honored and respected him for his unfaltering courage, his sturdy independence, his incorruptible integrity and his earnest desire to promote the welfare of mankind. These qualities have been displayed conspicuously and consistently throughout his long service, and it is for them that he has become known as the "grand old man" of the senate.

* * *

SENATOR NORRIS HAS NOT WON distinction as a great orator. He is neither Demosthenes nor Webster. He has not been conspicuous as a party leader. On the contrary, party ties have rested so lightly upon him that in these later years he has severed them altogether. But with little aid from platform rhetoric and without the prestige of a compact party following, he has made himself felt in as a power in the councils of the nation by the sheer force of his own personality.

* * *

SUCH A MAN DOES NOT FAIL, AND Senator Norris has not failed. He has not always achieved the immediate purpose to which he devoted his effort. He has helped in the achievement of some things which many believe to be of doubtful value. All those things are merely incidents in the course of a long and useful life. But while he has made numerous contributions to the public life of his state and nation which are of real value, his greater achievement has been through the influence of his own personality. His life has been a standing denial of the cynic's charge that there is no such thing as honesty in public life. He has stood manfully by his convictions when he knew that those convictions were unpopular, and in doing so he has encouraged others to go and do likewise. His present disappointment is easy to understand, but let us hope that when the flavor of its bitterness has passed away he will still be able to enjoy years of happiness, mellowed by the consciousness of duty faithfully performed and cheered by the knowledge that he occupies a warm place in the affection of the American people.

IN A CASE BEFORE THE FEDERAL court in St. Louis in which several persons are charged with membership in a group which advocates overthrow of the United States government by violence, the defendants offer a plea which had been made on several other occasions. They say that their society advocates the substitution by peaceful means of a Socialist form of government for the present system. That, of course, would be perfectly lawful. But the society warns its members that powerful business interests will resist such change by the employment of force. Therefore, members must be prepared to overwhelm by force the armed opposition of the capitalists. That is certainly taking time by the forelock.



Davies.

I WONDER WHAT HAS BECOME OF all those thousands of Italian prisoners that the British captured in the former African campaign, to which will be added some 100,000 others that are now eagerly awaiting capture, if they have not already been gathered in. It is no small job to feed and house nearly a quarter of a million extra men, and international regulations require that prisoners shall be maintained on a scale equal to that provided for the captor's own men of similar rank. German popularity in Italy will not be increased by the stunt of the

German command in loading all available motor vehicles with German troops and hitting it up for the west, leaving their Italian allies to walk, be shot down or surrender. And only the other day Mussolini was rehearsing his proposed triumphal entry into Cairo.

* * *

ADDRESSING A MEETING OF BARTENDERS in New York, Mayor LaGuardia told his hearers how they might contribute to the cause of temperance. He advised them when mixing drinks for customers who had already had enough, to be liberal with the ice. That advice should appeal both to the ice man and to the saloon man, for ice is less costly than liquor.

* * *

THE MOUNT HOLLY, NEW JERSEY, school has been closed because the teacher, who lives 20 miles away, had used up all her gasoline driving back and forth and the rationing board wouldn't allow her any more. But why doesn't the teacher live nearer her work? Perhaps they never heard of the practice of "boarding around" which was quite common in the more or less good old days of long ago. The teacher was hired on the basis of a cash payment of five dollars or so a month and lived a month at a time with the several families of the district. That didn't always work smoothly. Sometimes the teacher was a welcome guest, sometimes not.

* * *

IF THE TEACHER HAPPENED TO be a comely young girl, Mrs. Jones, who was trying to marry off her eldest daughter to young Smith, might not care to see the teacher injected into the Smith family, whereas, if the teacher were an eligible bachelor, she might bring all her influence to bear to get him under her own roof. Boarding the teacher was the basis of many a neighborhood quarrel.

* * *

THE REVEREND BUD ROBINSON died at his home in Pasadena the other day at the age of 82. He had been an evangelist for 61 years. Born in the Tennessee mountains, he was converted at the age of 20. At that time he could neither read nor write and he was further handicapped by a speech impediment. Nevertheless, he began to preach, and he kept it up through most of his long life. He estimated that he had preached 32,176 sermons to congregations of 72 denominations. According to his records he had traveled more than 2,000,000 miles and made 200,000 converts. An average of one convert for every 10 miles of travel seems like pretty good going.

* * *

A FEW PARAGRAPHS AGO I MENTIONED a school teacher driving "back and forth." I don't know why we say it that way, but most of us do. Obviously the teacher must drive forth before she can drive back, and so must anyone else. But who ever heard of anyone going "forth and back?" Invariably, so far as I have noticed, we reverse the process.

SOME OF THE DEBUNKERS HAVE sought to cloud the reputation of John Hancock, famous signer of the Declaration of Independence, by citing the fact that Hancock was a smuggler. The fact is beyond dispute. Hancock was engaged in smuggling on a large scale, and he appears to have made a lot of money by doing so. But why pick on Hancock? In the colonies smuggling was an honorable occupation, and everyone smuggled who could.



Davies.

Regulations restricting the trade of the colonies and imposing taxes on it were held by the colonists to be illegal and unjustifiable, and when they evaded those regulations they were merely acting within what they believed to be their rights. Hancock was one of many merchants who were regularly engaged in bringing goods into the country without paying the duties which had been imposed, as they held, unlawfully. Those who made a business of smuggling made money by it. Innumerable others smuggled on a smaller scale, largely for their own convenience. They refused to pay taxes which they had had no voice in levying.

* * *

ATTEMPTS HAVE ALSO BEEN made to discredit others of the revolutionary period by charging them with being land speculators. Washington was one of the largest land owners in the colonies. There were many others who acquired large tracts of land at low prices. Some of them grew rich. They bought land at that time inaccessible and valueless because they believed in the future of the country. They built roads into and through their tracts. They helped settlers to move onto their lands and often provided means for their maintenance until they could become firmly established. They deprived no one of property or opportunity. If investment of money and effort in the future of that in which one has faith is speculation they were speculators, but they were real builders of a new nation.

* * *

SOME OF THOSE YOUNG MEN WHO fly through the air have interesting experiences. Over in New Guinea Lieutenant James Miller, while flying over a jungle in a fighter plane, encountered bad weather and bailed out. He landed safely, but his plane had crashed. Natives picked him up and led him to another plane which had been abandoned on a beach. The plane seemed to be in workable condition, but it had no seat. A native boy seated himself on the floor of the cockpit and Miller sat on his lap, thus being able to see where he was going. He took off with some difficulty and presently landed at his base. The boy was made happy with the gift of a bright red belt.

* * *

OUR SMALLEST BIRD IS THE HUMMING bird, of which but one species, the Ruby-throat, appears in this territory. But

there are many species of humming birds in the tropics. In an exhibit just opened in New York there are thirteen kinds of Costa Rican and Colombian humming birds, 10 of which have never before been seen in captivity. Among the specimens shown are several flame-bearers, which come within two tenths of an inch of being the smallest birds known. They measure 2.7 inches from tip of beak to tip of tail. The Princess Helena of Cuba measures 2.5 inches.

* * *

THE COMING RATIONING OF COFFEE was being discussed, and an old Iowa farmer said he was in the habit of drinking 14 cups a day. "Doesn't it keep you awake?" he was asked. "Well, it helps," he replied.

* * *

VICE PRESIDENT WALLACE thinks that when the people did not choose to turn control of the house of representatives over to the Republicans they gave amazing proof of their satisfaction with the present administration. But they came mighty close to doing it. However, if Mr. Wallace finds any comfort in looking at it in that way, he is welcome.

RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON FOOD purchases, whether imposed by direct rationing, by voluntary self-denial or by scarcity of some provisions on the market have thus far been so trivial as to cause scarcely any perceptible inconvenience to the civilian population. And whatever inconvenience there is is more than offset by the knowledge that Uncle Sam is feeding his soldiers and sailors the best there is, and plenty of it. Letters received back home from numerous men in camp contain descriptions of the food served in the camps which inspire some of the veterans of 1917-18 with the desire to enlist again. And the men in that earlier war were not starved, by any means.

* * *

IN A LETTER JUST RECEIVED BY a Grand Forks housewife from her son in one of the training camps gives all that he can remember of one day's menu. The list is so varied that any gourmet might select from it three meals which would meet his most exacting requirements, and the young man writes that the food is so tempting that he finds it difficult to resist the temptation to eat more than he should. Enclosed in the latter is a printed request from the camp chef asking the mother to send to him one day's menu of her son's favorite foods. There is no guarantee that all the foods mentioned will be provided, but it is explained that the desire is to provide foods which, so far as possible, will be acceptable to the trainees.

* * *

A GRAND FORKS RECRUIT IN AN army camp was hospitably entertained at the home of a family where he was known by name but was otherwise a stranger. He spent a wonderful evening, just visiting and being made to feel at home. Afterward he said to a friend "Back home I ran across a few service men occasionally who were away from home, and I often thought of asking some of them in for a meal or to spend an evening, but some



Davies.

way or other I didn't get around to it. Believe me, if I ever have the chance again I won't overlook it! It means a lot just to have a touch of real home life."

* * *

A DRIVER, CHARGED WITH EXCEEDING the speed limit, chose to plead not guilty and stand trial. Cross-examining him the prosecutor said.

"You say that you did not at any time drive over 35 miles an hour. How do you know?"

"I watched the speedometer," answered the defendant.

"When you are driving," he was asked, "do you watch the speedometer all the time, every instant,"

"No sir. Part of the time I watch the road."

* * *

IN THE DESERT FIGHTING IN AFRICA General Montgomery's men have been too busy chasing the retreating Germans that they hadn't time to bother with the thousands of Italians whom the Germans had left without food, water or transportation and who pathetically asked of passing British tank drivers where they could go to surrender and be safe. They were told just to keep on walking back until they found somebody who wasn't too busy to pick them up. This brought from a Grand Forks young woman this bright suggestion.

The British should have big placards planted on the desert each one with pictures of heaps of food and of comfortable beds, with a hand pointing in the right direction.

That seems like a good suggestion, unless there are regulations over there against defacing the landscape with outdoor signs.

* * *

WITH THE USE OF CARS CURTAILED, and more severe curtailment in prospect this might be a good time for somebody to make another attempt at starting a central delivery system. That has been tried in many places. In some cities it may have become a fixture, but in city after city after city it has been tried and abandoned, although numerous persuasive arguments have been presented in its favor.

WE HAVE BEEN IN THE HABIT OF poking fun at the Italians for their failure to acquit themselves with distinction in the desert warfare of northern Africa. They have given only feeble resistance to attack and on many occasions groups of them have welcomed an opportunity to surrender and thus be out of harm's way. There have been chuckles of amusement over the spectacle of companies and regiments of Italians cut off from their commands, abandoned by their German allies, asking onrushing British tank crews to direct them to some place where they could give themselves up and get rest and a square meal. There are features which, at the distance of several thousand miles appear to have their elements of humor.



Davies.

* * *

IN OUR AMUSEMENT WE ARE APT to give little thought to the fact that the Italian common people, from whom most of the soldiers come, who had no desire for war, were led into warlike adventure by the grandiose promises by an ambitious politician who sought to enact the role of Caesar with none of the qualities that made Caesar great, and who, since their self-appointed dictator has become the lackey of a Hitler, have been forced into subjection by a Nazi power which has held them in contempt and which has never tried to disguise that contempt. Small wonder that the Italian soldiers have had little stomach for the African war!

* * *

THE PLIGHT OF THE ITALIAN SOLDIERS has had its amusing features, but there is nothing amusing in the straits to which thousands of them have been reduced. Abandoned by their allies, left without food, water or means of transportation on an inhospitable desert where the sun scorches them by day and the winds chill them by night, without knowledge of their whereabouts and with no one to guide them, they have wandered aimlessly across the sands until, faint for want of food, and with their very fibers parched and shrunken, they have fallen in their tracks to rise no more. There is nothing amusing in that picture and we may be sure that the British squads sent out to find and relieve those lost stragglers found nothing funny in it.

* * *

I REMARKED THE OTHER DAY that I recalled no case in which anyone used the expression "forth and back,"

which is obviously the correct one, for one must go forth before he goes back. Dr. G. A. Henry, of Wesley college, tells me that his father, who lived in the north of Ireland used it, when he wished to refer to a reciprocating movement, and Dr. Henry says that with that exception he has never known anyone to use the words in that order. It has always been "back and forth," just as I have observed it.

* * *

THAT LEADS ME TO THE SUBJECT of spelling, especially of foreign place-names. The British drive against Rommel began when both armies were just north of the Qattara marsh. A little later we were told of fighting at Tel el-Aqqaqir, What monstrosities to an English speaking person! I will concede that the letter Q in our alphabet is quite superfluous, as its purpose can be served just as well by other letters. But there it is, and we use it in a certain way. We follow it with a u and to us the combination represents a certain sound. I understand that the Q in such words as Qattara is intended to represent a sound somewhat similar to the German guttural ch, but such gutturals are foreign to our speech, so why drag them into print. If the name of that marsh sounds pretty much like Kattara, and the other name sounds like Akkakir, why don't we spell them that way and let it go at that?

* * *

ANOTHER ABOMINATION TO ME IS the use of an apostrophe in the middle of a word such as some mid-African names, to indicate a sound for which we have no equivalent in English. That may be all right for the philologist, but he might invent a character to represent the sound. But for the man on the street a printed word should be spelled in the alphabet of the reader's country and in such a way as to represent as nearly as possible the sound which he utters when he pronounces the word. There ought to be a law about it.

AMONG THE FEATURES OF THE long public career of Senator Norris of Nebraska is the fact that Mr. Norris was the first person nominated by petition to win election to the senate. Candidates for nomination at primary elections usually have their names placed on the ballot by petition, but in such cases they are candidates for nomination by their respective political parties. In 1836 Senator Norris, who until that time had been listed as a Republican, sought no party nomination, but had his name placed on the fall election ballot by petition. He was also the first person listed as an independent to be elected to the senate.



Davies.

A BUSY MAN CALLED TO THE telephone heard a voice saying: "Mr. Blank wishes to speak to you." "All right, put him on." "He isn't here just now. I think he's somewhere around the plant. I'll see if I can find him. Hold the wire." "When you do find him," roared the busy man, "tell him I've gone fishing. And tell him further that any time he wants to speak to me he better be at his end of the wire."

CRASHING NOISES WERE HEARD one night in an up-state New York neighborhood and next morning it was found that most of the roadside mail boxes had been smashed by having cobblestones heaved at them. The boxes were repaired as well as possible, and a few nights later there were more noises and the boxes were smashed again. Cobblestones were again found near them. That sort of thing went on until after considerable sleuth work two young men were caught in the act of doing the smashing. They were workers in a nearby defense plant. On one of their off nights they had taken a car and gone for a ride. Seeing a pile of cobblestones by the roadside they thought those stones would be nice things to throw. They loaded their car with rocks and began throwing at mail boxes. They found that such an amusing diversion that they repeated it night after night. The judge didn't think it was so funny, and gave them jail sentences.

AN INTERESTING RUBBER-SAVING suggestion is made by the Tulsa, Okla., war transportation committee. The plan is simply to abandon inner tubes altogether, pump air into the casings and go ahead. This method, says the committee, will work successfully on all wheels with drop center rims such as are now mounted on all modern cars. The process, as described in the committee's circular and illustrated with diagrams is as follows:

INSIDE OF RIM SHOULD BE CLEANED and sandpapered smooth. If there are corrugations such as are built into some rims they should be ground off. A valve such as is used in a truck tire is inserted in the rim through the hole left for a valve and is seated with a rubber washer. The casing, with beads cleaned and smoothed, is mounted and is beaten lightly with the hand or a mallet as air is applied. The committee, of which the

mayor of Tulsa is an ex-officio member, makes the following statement:

"THIS DISCOVERY IS NOW BEFORE Washington authorities. But they move very slowly. Their first reactions have been disappointing. We have the logs of cars that have been driven past 10,000 miles without tubes and **WITHOUT A SINGLE FAILURE.**

"We urge you not to wait on anything or anybody. See that a dozen or a hundred cars in your vicinity are stripped of their tubes at once according to the attached directions and run your own tests on them. Then when you are convinced, join us in our request that Washington formulate a plan to take in the country's 210,000 tons of inner tubes (68% crude rubber) and make good war tires of them. Let's quit wasteful, fooling practices and act with knowledge and determination."

A NECESSARY PRECAUTION IS TO patch all small holes in the casing and vulcanize all large ones so as to avoid leaks, and the committee recommends the use of one or two quarts of some sealing fluid to each tire as an additional safeguard.

IT WILL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE there are available to the public all the details relating to the sending of that expeditionary force to Africa. Some of those details must still be kept under cover lest the enemy be given information which would be of value to him, while other intensely interesting details are so numerous that it would be impossible to publish them within a short time. But the facts already made public impress one with the immensity of such an undertaking, the complexity of the necessary work of preparation, and of the marvelous precision and co-ordination with which the work was actually performed.

* * *

THAT AMERICANS AND BRITISH intended to attack Germany in force and were actively preparing for such an attack was common knowledge, although there were writers and speakers who seemed to be unaware of the fact. A decision had to be made as to what part of the enemy front should first be attacked. There were consultations in which the subject was approached from every angle. It was decided that a direct attack on Germany from the West would be such a tremendous undertaking that preparation for an expedition that could be launched with any hope of success could not be got ready before some time in 1943, but that an expedition could be sent to Africa this year with reasonable prospect of expelling the enemy from that territory and gaining positions there from which further offensive operations could be conducted.

* * *

THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER to wait until 1943 for the major attack from the west or to launch the flanking expedition this year. The decision was in favor of the latter course. Meanwhile intensive preparations had been underway for an offensive in some direction. Material had been assembled, shipping had been got ready, and troops had been drilled in such a manner as to fit them for any emergency. Secret agents were sent to the African colonies to get in touch with friendly inhabitants and prepare the way for the expedition when it

should come. Probably no under-cover work on a similar scale was ever more successfully performed.

* * *

OVER IN EGYPT, THE BRITISH army had been receiving reinforcements of men from many areas and shipments of tanks and other war material from Britain and America by the long route around the Cape of Good Hope. Then Rommel's army in Egypt was hit, and hit hard. The armada of 850 ships, the greatest ever set forth in any war, sailed through Atlantic storms, assembled at Gibraltar, and with clock-like precision swooped down on the African coasts.

* * *

OCCUPATION OF THE NORTH AF-rican areas will of itself accomplish little. The positions occupied must be defended from the furious attacks which are certain to come. Those positions must not only be held but must be used as the spring-boards for still greater offensive movements. The whole Mediterranean must be made secure for Allied shipping. That will shorten the distance through which men and supplies must be transported from 12,000 to 15,000 miles to about one-fifth of that distance. In effect the effectiveness of Allied shipping will be increased five or six fold, the equivalent of scores of new ships.

* * *

THE LAW JUST PASSED LOWERS the draft age from 20 to 18 years, and there will now be approximately 1,500,000 new selectees available for military service. It is not expected that the army will be increased by that number immediately as the process of inducting men into service necessarily takes time. Among civilians there was a widespread opinion that there should be special provision under which youths of 18 or 19 would not be put into action until they had been given a year of training. That provision, which was inserted in the bill in the senate, was eliminated because of opposition to it, not only by army men of all ranks, but by others who are familiar with army requirements. It was pointed out that if the army is to be enlarged as intended, and as it must be, there can be no segregation of men according to age, and the requirement for a full year's training for the younger recruits would result in keeping whole regiments and divisions out of action for a year. This being understood, the amendment was eliminated.



Davies.

AN ARTICLE CLIPPED FROM A Houston, Texas paper tells of the installation of Rev. Richard S. Watson as rector of Trinity Episcopal church in Houston. There are many local residents who will remember Richard Watson as a boy in Grand Forks and student at the University of North Dakota. His father, Rev. Jonathan Watson, was rector of St. Paul's Episcopal church in Grand Forks some 25 or 30 years ago.

Intending to devote himself to the profession of law, Richard Watson shaped his studies in that direction and on the completion of his law course he engaged in practice in Denver. After two years there he associated himself with a business firm in Dallas. Deciding at length on entering the ministry, in 1929 he registered as a student at the Virginia Theological seminary at Alexandria. There he won high rank as a student and he was ordained in 1932. In that year he married Miss Rachel Summers, of Houston. During the past seven years he has served as rector of a church at Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The church in Houston to which he has now been called is the largest in the Texas diocese and one of the largest in the South.

* * *

THAT PHYSICAL HANDICAPS DO not necessarily result in an attitude of hopelessness is illustrated in a few sentences from a letter received by a Grand Forks friend from Miss Clara Struble, for many years a teacher in the Grand Forks schools, and now a resident of San Diego, Calif. Years ago Miss Struble had an accident from the effects of which she never quite recovered. Seven years later another accident rendered her unable to walk except with the aid of a "walker," or with crutches, yet—

* * *

"OF COURSE I FEEL THE HANDICAP," she writes, "but life is good! I belong to a very strange club in which the requirement for membership is some sort of handicap. Our president is confined to her wheel chair and her right arm is helpless, but she does more civic work than would seem possible for any woman. The secretary, also, is even more crippled, but she writes and types with her crooked hands. There are about 140 of us, about equally divided between men and women. About 10 per cent are blind. Several are on sunshine beds, but a happier lot you never saw. Very few can get around as well as I can, so I try to talk to everyone at each of our monthly meetings.

* * *

"AT THE LAST GATHERING SUCH a joyous shout of surprise arose as you



Davies.

have not often heard—Alta —, who a year before was on a sunshine bed, was walking! To be sure, she was on the arms of two friends, but walking!

"At a convention party the great news passed around, "Grace — is dancing!" Supported, I suppose by a strong Good Sport. The Good Sports are an Allied club whose sole purpose is to take the Indoor Sports to their gatherings and to see that they have a good time."

* * *

AGAIN I AM INDEBTED TO F. M. Loudenback, Minnesota Point nurseryman, for some excellent fruit from his nursery. This time it is canned cherries. The compass cherry is often grown in the northwest, but it is not a true cherry, but a cross between cherry and plum. But it is generally supposed that real cherries will not thrive here. Mr. Loudenback's are real cherries, Early Richmonds, and he has grown them successfully for 13 years. This year his trees were loaded with fruit, and they have yielded well ever since they came into bearing.

* * *

NURSERIES MUCH FARTHER South have had poor success with cherries, but Mr. Loudenback has had no difficulty with his. The trees are given no special treatment and have never been given winter protection, yet they have come through some of our most severe seasons without injury. Mr. Loudenback attributes this to the fact that instead of grafting them onto other root stock, which is the common practice, he transplants suckers and leaves them growing on their own roots.

* * *

THERE ARE A FEW LOCALITIES IN North Dakota where trees will not grow if given reasonable care, and wherever other trees will grow fruit trees of some kind can be made to thrive. And it seems from Mr. Loudenback's experience that cherries may be grown successfully on any northwestern farm.

IN THIS MATTER OF FUEL OIL consumption it is difficult to make comparisons of one season with another that will not be misleading. The fuel year, according to most reckonings begins with the starting of the first fire in the fall and ends with the last fire the following spring. But we are apt to base our estimate of the whole season on the kind of weather that prevails in the three real winter months, December, January and February. But for fuel purposes the mild or severe weather in the midwinter months may be offset, or even more than offset by unusually cold or unusually warm weather in spring and fall. Thus one may find that in spite of a "mild winter" he has burned a lot of fuel during the season, or that though the real winter has been severe, his fuel consumption for the whole season has been light.



Davies.

EVERYONE IS AGREED THAT THE winter of 1941-42 was unusually mild, and on looking over my records I find that my oil consumption for that season was the lowest in a dozen years. But I was rather surprised to find that it was less than 4 per cent less than in the season 1938-39. In the earlier season the real winter months were colder, but less heat was needed in fall and spring. The net result was almost a tie. There have been seasons in which a severe winter was flanked by cold spring and fall, and in such cases fuel consumption has jumped as much as 30 per cent for the season. On the whole the season 1942-43 has been behaving well thus far. The warm October weeks cut oil consumption in those weeks almost to zero.

OUTDOOR TEMPERATURE IS BUT one factor affecting indoor comfort. Of the other factors wind is by far the most important. The house that is easily heated in still air will require twice as much fuel for comfort in a strong wind, even though the temperature may be the same. Insulation is a great help. Storm windows are indispensable in this climate, and weatherstripping is a fuel saver, but all of these together will not offset the effect of a high wind.

SOME DAYS AGO I MENTIONED the closing of the public school at Mount Holly, N. J., because the teacher, who lived 20 miles away, could not get gas for her car. Commenting on this case and on

the suggestion that the teacher might move nearer her work W. E. LePlante of Grafton writes:

"I APPRECIATED YOUR COMMENT in today's "That Reminds Me" an awful lot. Your comments on the Mount Holly school case makes one wonder if the people around there went to school long enough to learn a little logic. I went East on a visit in 1930 and was in New Jersey for 2 days and the towns were so crowded that you had to read the signs to know when you left one town and entered another. My impression of this deal is that this Mount Holly School ma'am is either too stupid to teach school if she couldn't calculate how many gallons of gas it took to carry her forth and back, or so inconsiderate of the gas situation that she ought to be deprived of her ration book entirely for the duration, and either get a job as a housemaid where she would not have to travel at all, or locked up in a concentration camp. And there are a lot of people in North Dakota running around with no important reason for so doing, and the sooner they are rounded up and confined to one spot the better it will be for all of us who have to have some fuel oil and who can use gasoline to good advantage."

OF COURSE IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE that we have been doing the New Jersey teacher an injustice. Perhaps she can't find a boarding place nearer her school. New Jersey is highly industrialized, and there has been a great influx of war workers into its cities and villages, so that houses are filled to overflowing. Let's give the young lady the benefit of the doubt.

PREDICTING ELECTION RESULTS is ticklish business. Of course all sorts of predictions are made on the street corners and around the dinner table, and while most of them are wrong, nobody pays much attention to them. They are merely matters of casual conversation, similar to the weather predictions that are made every day. You remark "I'll bet it will rain before night," and it doesn't rain. But nobody cares anything about your guess, or remembers it, for all the others have been making their own guesses, and before the time comes for any predicted change they are thinking about something else. After a spell of open weather you remark that it looks like an open winter, but everybody lays in the usual supply of fuel just the same, provided rationing doesn't interfere.

* * *

BUT ELECTION PREDICTIONS made and published in all seriousness as a contribution to public information are a different matter. The Gallup organization has been sampling public sentiment on all sorts of subjects for a good many years and from time to time it has offered predictions with respect to important public events. Without question it is the most conspicuous and most important of all the agencies engaged in that sort of work. Yet Dr. Gallup has broken into print to explain that the predictions of his bureau concerning the late election were not as far wrong as they seemed to be, and to set forth the reasons why they were not more accurate.

* * *

ON THE BASIS OF ITS SAMPLING the Gallup bureau predicted that the Democrats would retain control of the house by approximately their former majority and suggested that they might even make some gains. Actually the Democratic majority was whittled away almost to the vanishing point. The bureau conceded to the Republicans 158 to 178 house seats. Actually they seated 209 of their candidates. Dr. Gallup admits that



Davies.

this error was greater than the usual allowance. His explanation of it is interesting, if not convincing. He says:

* * *

"SOME FIVE MILLION YOUNGER men who are predominantly Democratic are in the armed services and did not vote. Another 5 to 10 million working people have changed their residence and were ineligible to vote in this election because of registration requirements. Another 10 million people didn't bother to go to the polls. In this group the Democrats likewise predominate."

* * *

THAT THE MILLIONS MENTIONED by Dr. Gallup did not vote is quite certain. But on what basis are we to assume that they are more "predominantly Democratic" than those who did vote? By what strange process was so large a proportion of the Democratic majority shifted into the armed services, into the war industries and elsewhere into the list of non-residents, and into a state of indifference which kept them away from the polls, leaving at home chiefly Republicans to do the voting? If all those enumerated had voted the total vote would have been some millions greater than it was, but there seems to be no reason to suppose that if they had voted the proportionate vote polled by the parties would have been materially changed.

* * *

IT SEEMS THAT DESPITE ALL THE care exercised to insure accuracy Dr. Gallup's estimators made a bad guess. It wasn't as bad as the last poll made by the Literary Digest, which until the very day of election indicated Republican success in the presidential election of 1936. That poll sealed the fate of the Literary Digest and closed a career most of which had been distinguished and constructive.

* * *

VICE PRESIDENT MARSHALL'S historic statement that what the country needed was a good five cent cigar has become classic. In a way the five cent cigar has been a symbol of democracy. But now, while we are fighting for the preservation of democracy it appears that the nickel cigar is to pass from the scene. There are rumors that because of additional taxation the price of the nickel cigar is to be advanced to six cents.

* * *

THERE HAVE BEEN GREAT changes in smoking habits. Since the practice of smoking began among the white peoples the pipe and the cigar have been in common use. It is not long since even those who tolerated the smoking of pipes and cigars as only a minor vice furiously denounced the smoking of cigarettes as a shameful thing, an evidence of degeneracy and a menace to the human race. Now the cigarette is the most popular of all and even the most ardent uplifters help to distribute cigarettes to the young men in the armed forces.

* * *

LONG, LONG AGO I SMOKED CHE- roots. There are many types of rolled tobacco that are known by different names. There is the famous Pittsburgh stogie, long, slim and crooked, which sold for a cent. There were, and are, many kinds of cheroots. Webster defines a cheroot as a kind of cigar, truncated at both ends, originally made in southern India and Manila. It was the Manila cheroot that I smoked, years before Dewey entered Manila bay. It fitted Webster's definition perfectly, having straight, tapered sides, and the cheroots were put up in packages of 25 which sold for a quarter. I wonder if they are still made.

GOOD CHEER WAS BROUGHT TO all of us by the news that Captain Rickenbacker, lost for three weeks in the south Pacific, had been found, and that



Davies.

all of his gallant company save one had been rescued from what had appeared almost certain death. Details of the experience of those men are lacking. We know now that one of the men was first found afloat on a raft, that that Rickenbacker and two companions were on another raft from which another, having died, was buried at sea,

and that the others were found on a small island. The story of their gallant struggle to maintain life in almost impossible circumstances remains to be told.

* * *

SINCE MEN BEGAN TO GO DOWN to the sea in ships it has been the custom to make some provision for possible shipwreck and for those cast adrift on the sea. Voluntary custom was followed by legislation making compulsory the carrying of lifeboats and their equipment with stores of food and water sufficient for a reasonable time. Similar requirements attach to the operation of planes. Published description of the modern life raft over large bodies of water. For the old substituted and those rafts are inflated automatically by the release of bottled gas or in some similar manner. One published description of the modern life raft says that each one of a certain type carries sufficient concentrated food to provide four men with three meals a day for five days. Of the four men who set forth on the Rickenbacker raft three clung to it for three weeks. From that one can imagine something of the straits of hunger to which these three must have been reduced.

* * *

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW York, has an open season for deer. The season lasts only five days, and it is exclusively for those who hunt with bow and arrow. There are sections in which deer are so plentiful that hunting them

with the rifle can scarcely be called sport, and devotees of archery have taken to the bow and arrow as a substitute which provides more fun.

* * *

THIS PRIMITIVE WEAPON HAS been used in modern times in hunting many kinds of game, among them lions in Africa. A few years ago one enthusiastic archer spent a season in lion-infested districts in Africa and bagged several fine specimens with his bow and arrow. When he was about to shoot a lion, however, he took the precaution of having a man along with a rifle, just in case. If I ever got close enough to a lion to shoot him with a bow I should want to have a trusty friend right at my elbow with a machine gun.

* * *

THERE HAVE BEEN ACCIDENTS from the careless use of the bow, just as from the careless use of the rifle. Long ago, when archers roamed Sherwood forest in England and subjected sheriffs and others to indignities that worthy archer, Robin Hood, gave this bit of sound advice to his friends:

"Never jest with thy friends by pointing thine arrow at them. For a certainty, thy bow doth not shoot accidentally. It must have an arrow on the string, must be drawn and aimed before a shot can be made. Let the bullseye be thy mark."

With a word changed here and there that would still be good advice for the person who handles a rifle.

* * *

NEW YORK IS A GREAT DAIRY state, and like other dairy states it has been embarrassed by the withdrawal of help from the dairy industry to other occupations. Many dairy herds have been sold because the owners could not get help to carry on. But, while there are fewer dairymen in the state now than there were a year ago, the production of milk in the state for October of this year was about 2 per cent greater than for October, 1941. Condition of pastures may have had something to do with it, and there may have been other factors, but the increase in production is there and it is reported by the state department of agriculture.

SOME TIME LAST WEEK A YOUNG fellow appeared at police headquarters in Grand Forks and said he wanted to surrender as a deserter from the United



Davies.

States army. He had deserted, he said, three times, each time picking up such jobs as were available and working at them until he tired of the experience and then surrendering. This time, he said, he had been at large for several months, and he wondered that the military authorities had not

caught up with him. He was received and held pending decision as to what should be done with him. About the same time another deserter was gathered in at Hoboken, N. J., after having deserted from the army five times. Apparently that sort of thing gets to be a habit.

* * *

ONE WONDERS HOW PRESIDENT Roosevelt manages to escape knowledge of things that it is not convenient for him to know. The other day Congressman Maas of Minnesota made a speech in which he was severely critical of some phases of war management in the Pacific. At a press conference the president was asked what he thought of the congressman's speech. Promptly he replied that he didn't know that Mr. Maas had made a speech. Naturally under those circumstances he couldn't comment on it. While he was abroad Wendell Willkie made some remarks which attracted considerable attention. Among other things Willkie was serving as the special representative of the president in the performance of certain unspecified duties. But when the president was asked what he thought of the Willkie statement he said he had seen only the headlines. On that basis of course he couldn't be expected to comment. Is there on his staff someone whose duty it is to tell him what it would be well for him to read and what he had better skip? Or has he some sixth sense by means of which he is able instinctively to avoid dangerous topics, in some such manner as the bat, flying in pitch darkness, is able to avoid obstacles? Whatever the plan is, it seems to work.

* * *

GOVERNOR STASSEN OF MINNESOTA says that "the walls of isolation are gone forever." Let's hope that the governor is right. But it appears that there are some fragments of the old walls lying around yet. The old Romans had a way. They leveled Carthage to the ground, strewed salt over the ruins and consigned the whole area to the nether regions. Un-

less something of that sort is done somebody is pretty sure to try to rebuild those walls of isolation from the rubble.

* * *

HOW OFTEN ARE TWINS BORN TO the same family consecutively? In the Herald's list of births the other day appeared the announcement that in a Grand Forks hospital twins, a boy and a girl, had been born to Lieutenant and Mrs. Spriggs of Walhalla. Two years ago Lieutenant and Mrs. Spriggs became the parents of twins—two pairs in succession. Such frequency and regularity in the birth of twins is rare, just how rare I do not know. I suppose the vital statisticians have tables showing how often it occurs.

* * *

ABOUT EIGHT YEARS AGO F. C. Gustafsson planted an apple tree at his home on Conklin avenue. The tree grew and grew, but it didn't blossom or bear fruit. Last spring Fred thought he would cut the tree down, but he decided to give it one more chance. Again not a blossom was visible. But this fall, as the leaves were beginning to drop, he found growing at the very top of the tree eight fine apples. The blossoms had not been seen, and all summer the growing apples had escaped observation.

* * *

EARLIER IN THE SEASON A HOUSEWIFE appeared at a local grocery and asked for 10 pounds of coffee. She said she wished to lay in a supply "before the hoarding began."

ONE OF THE AMAZING THINGS about that expedition to north Africa is the secrecy that surrounded the long months of preparation for it and its actual execution. Many military leaders in the United States and Britain necessarily took part in the preparation of plans for the invasion, and great numbers of their subordinates were actively engaged in providing transportation, supplies and equipment for the large force to be sent. Those subordinates may not have been specifically informed of the exact destination of the expedition or the precise time when it was to be dispatched, but in the nature of things they had to know that their preparations were for the sending of men and arms some great distance and into tropical territory. On no other basis could their preparations be intelligently made.



Davies.

* * *

WHEN THE EXPEDITION WAS ACTUALLY under way it consisted of what is described as the greatest armada ever assembled, and that vast concourse of some 850 ships, carrying 150,000 men, with guns, tanks, provisions and all the paraphernalia of war, and guarded by flocks of planes, had to sail through the miles of stormy seas before reaching Gibraltar, and up to that point the world was unaware that the attack on Africa was even contemplated. How such elaborate preparations could be kept secret for so long, and how the sailing of the great armada escaped observation by the German intelligence department are among the mysteries of the war. A few days before landings were actually effected on the African coast the German radio told of the presence at Gibraltar of an unusual number of enemy vessels, but even then Berlin gave no evidence of knowledge of the intended movement of the fleet, and certainly no preparations were made to meet it. Subsequently steps taken by the German command, such as the frantic effort to get reinforcements to Africa and the occupation of southern France indicate that the Nazis were taken completely by surprise.

* * *

LEARNING WHAT THE ENEMY IN-

tends to do is one of the necessary tasks of warfare. Innumerable devices have been employed to achieve that purpose. A thousand years ago, according to legend, King Alfred of England took his harp, and in the character of a wandering minstrel entered the camp of the Danish invaders and entertained his enemies with music. During his visit he gained information about the enemy's strength and his purposes which enabled him to win an important victory in a later battle.

* * *

IN THE FORMER WORLD WAR Captain Frederick Schofield, later admiral and commander-in-chief of the United States fleet, was attached to the British intelligence office in London. Later in describing the efficiency of the intelligence service he said that there were few movements of the German armies which were not known in advance in London, and that there were cases in which the intelligence office knew of orders issued to German commanders in the field before those orders had reached the officers for whom they were intended.

* * *

TOWARD THE CLOSE OF THE WAR the unit to which Schofield was attached had assigned to it the duty of plotting the forthcoming German campaign as it might be expected to be prepared by the German command itself. That work was done on the basis of all the actual information at hand in accordance with what were believed to be the requirements of military principles. The German campaign came to an abrupt close by the ending of the war, but it was found that the plans for it tallied almost exactly with the outline prepared in London.

* * *

MODERN MEANS OF COMMUNICATION have enabled military commanders to obtain information of movements both of their own and the enemy's forces which have been impossible to obtain before the development of telegraph, telephone and radio and the swift flights of the airplane. The entire campaign of which the battle of Waterloo occupied an area only a few square miles in extent, yet there were times when both Napoleon and Wellington were ignorant of the progress of engagements only a few miles away, and neither commander knew at all times where certain units of his command were or what they were doing.

SOMEWHERE IN ROBERT'S RULES of Order the author says in substance that the purpose of parliamentary law is to insure to the minority an opportunity to be



Davies.

heard and to the majority the power to make its will effective. The rules of the United States senate tend to defeat one essential part of that purpose. Under those rules any member of the minority may speak as long and as often as he pleases, and he may speak on any subject whatever, no matter how remote from that which is before

the house. Through the exercise of that privilege a small group of members can hold the senate in session day after day and block the enactment of legislation. That is carrying freedom of debate beyond the bounds of all reason.

* * *

FOR SEVERAL YEARS A CHANGE in urban transportation has been in progress, the bus being substituted for the street railway. Since war conditions created an abnormal demand for steel many miles of street railway track have been torn up and the rails have gone into the furnaces of steel factories, to be turned into implements of war. More than half of the rails of the Grand Forks street railway system have thus been removed and the rest are awaiting labor to remove them. But in one section of Brooklyn the process is being reversed. One of the city's street car lines which was abandoned a year ago, and the rails of which were to be removed, is being reconditioned preparatory to removal of buses from that line and resumption of car service. This is being done as a means of saving the gasoline used by the buses and the rubber that is worn out on their tires. It will be interesting to see how general this practice becomes.

* * *

IT IS CURIOUS WHAT TWISTS there are in the trend of public sentiment and the progress of public events. Arrangements for a big gathering in Toronto in honor of Wendell Willkie have been suspended until they find out what Mr. Willkie intends to say when he gets there. Mr. Willkie prides himself on saying what he pleases, which may be quite all right, but the Toronto people also claim the right not to listen if they don't wish to do so.

* * *

NOBODY QUESTIONS THE FACT that the airplane has come to occupy a place of vast importance in warfare, but contrary to the belief of some enthusiasts, the battleship is still a factor. In the recent battle of the Solomons battleship fought it out with battleship and their big guns hurled tons of metal and explosive at each other. For the first time in this war a big battle was fought ship against ship.

* * *

IN ONE OF HIS "LAYS OF ANCIENT Rome" Macaulay has the lines:

"Over the Alban mountains the light of morning broke:

From all the roofs of the Seven Hills curled the thin wisps of smoke;"

That would be a familiar morning scene even in a climate as mild as that of

Italy, for fires must be started to prepare the morning meal. And it is the kind of scene that one observes on any still winter morning in our own territory. But, although in cold weather our fires are kept going all day the smoke is no longer visible, and often I have to go outdoors to find out which way the wind is blowing. I suppose that means that there is a pretty high rate of efficiency in our fuel consumption, otherwise there would be more smoke.

* * *

PROSPECTIVE OIL RATIONING IS bringing into use a lot of fireplaces that have formerly seen very little service. Fireplaces are now being built with air circulating chambers which make them quite effective as distributors of heat. The old-style fireplace is a good ventilator, but it isn't an economical heating device. But even though it wastes some coal or wood, an open fire is a cheerful thing, and probably it is worth the additional cost. And one can broil a steak over it, provided he can get the steak.

IN THE DECEMBER READER'S DIGEST is an article describing several of the feats performed or attempted at Niagara Falls, beginning with the exploit of Blondin, the French acrobat, who in 1859 astonished the world by walking across the chasm just below the falls on a tightrope. Great crowds gathered to witness the performance, and possibly to see the performer fall to his death. Among the sightseers were such dignitaries as the prince of Wales, afterward King Edward VII, and ex-president Millard Fillmore of the United States.



Davies.

* * *

BLONDIN MADE SEVERAL OTHER perilous trips across the chasm, at different times walking blindfold, and backward, and at one time on stilts. His most spectacular performance was that of carrying a man across on his back. At one point he had to have his man dismount while he rested because a loose guy wire caused the rope to sway. There was a report that the guy had been cut by a gambler who had bet that Blondin would not complete the passage, but there seems to be no confirmation of that report. Blondin performed at the Crystal Palace in London, made a lot of money, lost it, and died in bed.

* * *

BLONDIN'S FEAT WAS COPIED IN later years by others, and then came a series of attempts to swim the Whirlpool rapids and even to go over the falls and come out alive. Captain Webb, who was the first person to swim the English channel, tried the rapids and lost his life. His bruised body was found seven miles below the rapids. Several persons tried going over the falls in barrels or other containers, and three lived through it. George Stathakis, was afloat for 15 hours in his barrel before it could be captured. He was dead when the barrel was opened. Bobby Leach went over in a barrel, was badly bruised, spent 23 weeks in a hospital, and in Australia he slipped on a banana peel and died from injuries sustained in the fall.

WALKING ACROSS THE CHASM ON a rope or swimming the rapids required skill, strength and endurance, but going over the falls in a barrel required none of these. It was the sort of stunt that anyone could perform if he were foolish enough to try it. All such feats are now prohibited, and very properly so.

* * *

EVERY LITTLE WHILE SOMEONE mentions my comment on the use of the phrase "back and forth," and my attention has been directed to the fact that persons of recent Norwegian ancestry invariably say "forth and back," which, of course, is correct. That is the form used in the Norse language, and it is retained when English is spoken. Joe Brown, Herald advertising manager, remembers a Scandinavian maid in his father's family who used it both ways. When she heard "back and forth" she would remark rapidly, "back and forth, or forth and back; you get there yust the same."

* * *

WHO KNOWS THAT THERE IS A war on. Sometimes we are told that the people don't yet realize it and that they need to be waked up. Then there are others who think that it is the government authorities who are asleep or the military officials who are moss-grown. J. J. Labine, formerly of Larimore, writing from Little Valley, New York, encloses the text of an advertisement published in a Buffalo paper by a restaurant man demanding that the heads of government organizations put a stop to waste and inefficiency and get the job done as it should be done.

* * *

THAT'S WHAT ALL OF US WOULD like, but perhaps more is being done than many of us suspect. In one way or other we have managed to send across the Atlantic a sizable army, with the stuff that an army needs, and to have performed quite a stunt in Africa. All honor to the men who handle the ships, and the guns, and the planes and tanks. But such an expedition could not have been landed on the African coasts unless somebody had been doing things back home. It's a good idea to keep stirring up the slackers and wasters, and there are too many of them, but we mustn't forget that the nation is producing more of everything that is needed by our fighting forces than most of us thought possible.

LAST WEEK IN A BALTIMORE HOSPITAL occurred the death of General John A. Lejeune, former commandant of the United States marine corps, who won distinction as commander of the famous Second division in the former World war. That division was composed of units of both the army and the marine corps, and General Lejeune is said to have been the only marine officer ever to hold an army divisional command. It was under his command that the division fought through the St. Mihiel, Champagne and Argonne actions and served as the spearhead of the assault on the formidable Blanc Mont ridge a few weeks before the armistice.



Davies.

GENERAL LEJEUNE WAS A NATIVE of Louisiana, a descendant of Acadians who settled there after their expulsion from Nova Scotia. He will be well remembered by the newspaper men who accompanied the fleet on its maneuvers in the West Indies in 1924. His face suggested carved granite, quite fitting for a marine commander, but his voice in ordinary conversation surprised strangers who met him, for it was unusually soft and pleasing. However, it had a quality which suggested that it could be pitched in a different key, and that when he issued orders they would come in different tone, clear, sharp and uncompromising. At a dinner in Charleston the local chief of police, who had been in his command, could not find superlatives enough to express his admiration of and devotion to his old commander. In his opinion Alexander, Caesar and Napoleon were mere novices in the art of war in comparison with General Lejeune. It is men who can inspire that kind of worship who win battles.

I HAVE BEEN READING WITH great interest a little book loaned to me by a friend, entitled "Notes on the History of the Bible." Its author, Professor C. C. Schmidt, was for many years a member of the faculty of the University of North Dakota, where he served until his retirement a few years ago. In the

leisure of these quiet years he has devoted much study to the manner in which the Bible as we have it today came into being.

IN HIS INTRODUCTION TO THE little work Professor Schmidt tells of questions which arose in his mind in his boyhood concerning many facts about the Bible, questions which he was not supposed to ask, for he was expected to accept what was set before him and to display no curiosity concerning it. There resulted, naturally, a sort of conflict between the investigating spirit of youth and the tabu which tradition had placed on investigation. In later years he obtained little light from conventional teaching. Then, when circumstances permitted, he began to read what scholars had learned about the subject. The result is this little book of less than 100 pages which is packed full of interesting and illuminating facts.

AMONG OTHER THINGS PROFESSOR Schmidt points out that much of the material which appears in our New Testament was in circulation among the Hebrews long before they had acquired the art of writing. That material, history, folk-lore and poetry, had been passed on from one generation to another by oral repetition, with what degree of accuracy it is impossible to know. Later that material was sorted and assembled, and scribes made records of it on papyrus.

THE PAPYRUS ON WHICH THOSE records were written became worn from use and had to be renewed, and we have no means of knowing how many successive copies were made of the original records or what changes they underwent in the process. None of the original documents are in existence or have been for many centuries. There have also been translations of the text from one language to another, from Hebrew to Greek, then to Latin, and in our case to modern English.

PROFESSOR SCHMIDT TRACES THE history of the Bible through these transitions and records the conflict of opinion that has existed among scholars concerning the authorship of many of the books of the Bible and concerning their eligibility for acceptance into the canon.

IN ORDER THAT THE HOUSEWIFE may have some basis on which to compare the cost of her Thanksgiving dinner this year with that of a similar dinner



Davies.

back east I have culled from the New York Times a few prices that were current in the markets of the big city just before Thanksgiving. The general range of prices in New York was somewhat higher than a year ago, which was expected, and there appears to have been a similar advance all over the country.

* * *

NEW YORK TURKEYS WERE QUOTED at 46 to 49 cents. These prices were all for No. 1 birds, the difference being for different weights. Birds of 16 pounds brought the highest price, while the low price was for those weighing 20 pounds or more. I have seen no mention of the small, plump birds, suitable for small families, to which considerable attention seemed to be given by breeders a year ago.

Chickens were quoted at 37 to 43 cents, duck 29 cents and goose 32 cents.

* * *

BUTTER WAS BECOMING SCARCE. Print and roll were quoted at 57 cents. Grade A white eggs were 68 cents and Grade B mixed 52 cents. I don't know why there should be a difference in the price of eggs on account of color, but there is. I have been told that in New York there is a decided preference for white eggs, while in Boston the brown ones are preferred—perhaps to match the beans and brown bread. New York obtains a large share of its eggs from the Pacific coast, and the supply there is reported to be running short, due in part to increased demand for the armed services.

* * *

CABBAGE WAS REPORTED TO BE abundant in New York at 2 to 5 cents a pound; sweet potatoes 4 to 5 cents a pound, and spinach 12 cents. Onions and turnips were each 5 cents a pound. Cranberries were 19 to 25 cents, small grapefruit 5 to 6 cents each. Oranges were not quoted, but they were said to be scarce and high.

* * *

SOME OF US HAD A SORT OF round-table discussion about what should be done with Hitler after the war. It was agreed that there should be no pricking with pins or boiling in oil, on the ground that no form of torture could do justice to the subject, and that the brutalizing effect of torture on the person who administers it is more damaging than any pain that can be inflicted on the victim.

* * *

FIRST IN ORDER, OF COURSE, came the idea that Hitler should be tried for his crimes, convicted and hanged. To that came the objection that such a course would make him a martyr and that thousands of those who have been taught to worship him would have their reverence for him intensified, believing that he had given up his life for whatever cause it is that he is supposed to represent.

* * *

ANOTHER IDEA WAS THAT HE should be banished to some remote and solitary island, a la Napoleon at St. Hel-

ena, there to meditate on his crimes and experience over and over the agony of his downfall. That, it was pointed out, would tend to dignify him beyond his deserts and to flatter his vanity with the idea that he was of such stature that civilization found it necessary to keep him away from contact with others lest he establish another totalitarian state.

* * *

THERE WAS SOME SUPPORT, ALSO, for the idea that he should be turned over to the German people to be disposed of as they might choose, the address of transmittal to be something to this effect:

"This man is yours. We have no use for him, no respect for him, and we do not choose to soil our hands with him. You made an idol of him; you swallowed his absurd philosophy; you permitted him to lead you into disaster and the commission of unthinkable crimes. Now take him and deal with him as you see fit."

The idea of making the Germans clean up their own mess didn't seem altogether bad, although there were some doubts. But it was agreed that if Hitler should liquidate himself, that would be the simplest way of all.

NOT ALL THE STORIES OF THE days before the war have been crowded out by current war stories. Some of the former are still being told. Here is one that cropped up the other day:

In the old days of the Chinese war lords and the American occupation of certain stations in China an American truck driver accidentally ran over a Chinese soldier and killed him. After much discussion the Chinese army presented a bill for \$500, which was promptly paid. That was supposed to dispose of the case. But presently the Chinese army returned \$150 with the explanation that the charge was found to be too great. The deceased, it was said, wasn't a very good soldier, anyway, and \$350 was all he was worth.



Davies.

* * *

SOME CURIOUS THINGS GET INTO the headlines. Thus when Anthony Eden was made administration leader of the British house of commons, succeeding Sir Stafford Cripps, one headline over an article recording the change had it that Eden was made speaker of the house. Everybody knows that the speaker of a legislative body doesn't lead. He doesn't even speak. If he wants to make a speech he has somebody else take the chair while he takes the floor.

* * *

THERE WAS ALSO A LITTLE TWIST, which may or not have been intentional, in a headline over the story of the escape from a New Jersey prison of an ironworker who was serving a term there. The headline read "Ironworker Bolts Prison." Actually, he didn't use bolts to get out. He used ladders.

* * *

GASOLINE DEALERS IN THE EAST are acting vigorously to prevent the "black marketing" of gasoline. Ration books are not transferrable, but in some cases they have been transferred and through the use of them there has been some bootlegging of gasoline at inflated prices. Legitimate dealers have united in requiring that car license numbers be

placed on the ration books before they are used.

* * *

NOT LONG AGO I QUOTED FROM A circular issued by the defense transportation bureau of Tulsa, Okla., a description of a method developed by an Oklahoma man for the use of automobile casings without tubes. The circular, widely distributed, has interested the oil industry, which has started testing the plan on a rather large scale. One thousand cars are now running on tubeless tires fitted as described in the circular, and the tires are said to be giving excellent service. Perhaps it will develop that we never needed inner tubes in the first place.

* * *

SEEMINGLY CONTRADICTIONARY phases of gasoline rationing mystify many persons. Many holders of A cards in the east can't understand why, if the purpose of rationing is to conserve rubber, they should be cut down to three gallons a week while others in their class in the west are to be entitled to four gallons. They ask if traffic in the west doesn't wear out as much rubber per gallon as in the east. And there have been protests from the west against rationing because there is no gasoline shortage in many of the midwest states.

* * *

OF COURSE THE ANSWER TO THE western complainants is that rationing is necessary in order to save rubber, regardless of the supply of gas line. And for the eastern people there is the further fact that in their territory there is actual shortage of gas, due to transportation difficulties.

* * *

IT IS QUITE TRUE THAT GAS RATIONING must improve inconvenience on many persons, and probably will subject some to actual hardship. It is announced that adjustments will be made, as far as possible, to minimize those hardships. Meanwhile, without having all the answers to all the questions raised, I admired the way in which Mr. Jeffers stood by his guns when he was subjected to pressure to induce him to change or suspend his rulings. It is refreshing to see someone in a government office who will make up his mind what to do, and then do it, regardless. I feel like cheering such a man on, even though he may be wrong.

ALL THE COMMENTATORS SEEM to be agreed that after the war some provision must be made for enforcement of peace. There are those who dream of an immediate federation of the world, or, as an initial step, of the Anglo-Saxon nations, to which others would be added as quickly as possible. Others, more realistic, envision an international co-operative organization of which all the United Nations will be members, but with each preserving its own national identity, form of government and control of its domestic affairs. No matter what the plan proposed there is seen the necessity for concerted action by peace-loving nations for the maintenance of peace, by force if necessary.



Davies.

* * *

THE IDEA OF JOINT ACTION TO enforce peace is not at all new. It was the subject of discussion for generations, and in somewhat modified form it was the basis of many of the treaties that followed great wars. Compacts were made among several nations that considered themselves collectively strong enough to enforce peace upon the neighbors. But the neighbors also formed compacts among themselves and formed rival organizations, and presently the peace groups disintegrated or were at war with each other.

* * *

AFTER THE FORMER WORLD WAR a vigorous effort was made to include the whole world in a vast peace organization, and before long nearly all of the nations were included in the League of Nations. Failure of the League to achieve the purpose for which it was created has often been attributed to its alleged lack of teeth to enforce its decisions. Actually, while the League had no army, no navy, no police force, it had teeth, in so far as teeth can be provided by a written constitution. In Article X the members pledged themselves to defend each other against external aggression. When the membership became all-inclusive that would mean that if one nation were attacked, all the others were bound to come to its rescue. The whole world would thus be constituted a gigantic police force to compel the unruly nation to behave.

* * *

THAT PROVISION WAS NEVER carried out. The reason: The nations were unwilling to observe the provisions of the constitution which they had designed. The constitution covered the situation, but when the test came considerations of national self-interest, and natural reluctance to engage in hostilities caused each nation to hold back and

the aggressor was permitted to go his way unmolested. The organization was there. The constitutional provision was there. But the will to act and to assume the necessary inconvenient and sacrificial consequence of acting was lacking.

* * *

ANOTHER PROVISION IN THE League constitution provided for maintenance of peace by measures short of war, namely, by the imposition of sanctions. A half-hearted attempt was made to apply that provision against Italy when she launched her Ethiopian adventure. Italy could have been stopped in her tracks without the firing of a shot had the other nations stood together and applied sanctions as they could have been applied. If the other nations had united in a boycott against Italy, and had closed their borders to her commerce, permitting nothing to be bought from her or sold to her, her adventure would have collapsed.

* * *

ACTUALLY, SOME SANCTIONS were applied, not enough to accomplish anything, but enough to irritate the Italians. The reason: A complete boycott would have interfered with the business of the boycotting countries, with consequent loss of employment by several million workers. The United States sold large quantities of oil to Italy. Britain had in Italy a large market for manufactured goods. Norwegian fishermen supplied Italy with great quantities of fish. Adjacent Mediterranean countries had important trade relations with Italy on which many of their people depended for livelihood. To suspend all that commerce would create grave industrial problems in many countries and would plunge some into serious economic embarrassment. Another factor was the rising menace of Naziism in Germany, which created a general spirit of reluctance to disturb existing conditions.

* * *

THE FEARS THAT WERE ENTER-tained and the reluctance that was felt had substantial basis. An omlet cannot be made without breaking eggs, and nations cannot join in a gigantic boycott without inconvenience to themselves. Have the peoples of the world, who are now involved in the tragedies of another war, reached the understanding that all the inconvenience and all the financial loss entailed in the boycotting of any aggressor nation would be infinitesimal compared with the monetary cost of this war, to say nothing of its cost in human suffering? If they have, they may be able to organize effectively for maintenance of peace, and to enforce peace, by whatever means may be necessary, by sanctions, and, as a last resort, by force of arms, as wholeheartedly and unreservedly as they now find it necessary to fight for victory in this greatest of all wars.